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Senator Michael Johnson
602 Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

June 16, 2023

Dear Senator Johnson,

Thank you for the letter responding to mine. I felt excited to get it, but reading it made me confused and just sad. I did think it was nice that you said that you would get me a tour of the Statehouse if I was ever in Columbia. I reread the letter with my mother and we both agreed that it was probably written by an aide who didn't know how to write to an 11-year-old. Below are some of my questions and thoughts about what the letter said.

The history of women in SC is interesting. But the data you shared would show that half of the Supreme Court would be women. If Supreme Court Justices mostly only come from the Court of Appeals and half are women, then there are enough qualified females for the SC Supreme Court.

I have a question about what you wrote - would you choose a man with about the same background as someone else on the court who was 99% perfect for the position, or a woman with a different background than anyone else on the court who was 98% perfect? As I wrote in my letter before, I think it's important to have many different opinions and viewpoints to come to the best decision, which is important for the court.

I hope that there will be a woman running next year that does not drop out and is an excellent candidate. But you said that there were two excellent candidates last time too but that wasn't enough to get them selected.

I'm happy you think that I can be what I want when I grow up, including an attorney or judge, if I work hard. But I felt confused by the word choice hustle?

I'd love to hear back from you about what you think you and I can do to make things better.

Thank you again for responding.

Sincerely yours,

Josie Duda